United Nations

Daily Highlights

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council condems violations of cease-fire in Nagorny Karabakh and demands end to hostilities and withdrawal of occupying forces from Zangelan district and Goradiz; calls on Armenian Government to use its influence so that Armenians in region comply with relevant resolutions.

+ Friends of Secretary-General on Haiti -- Canada, France, United States and Venezuela -- reaffirm commitment to Governors Island Agreement and to restoration of democracy in country; 13 United Nations agency staff to return there this weekend to support humanitarian relief work.

+ Department of Humanitarian Affairs allocates $5 million from Central Emergency Revolving Fund to UNHCR to aid refugees from Burundi coup.

+ Secretary-General appoints Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh, former Foreign Minister of Cameroon, as his Special Representative for Rwanda.

+ Special Representative Ajello says Italy will keep its troops in ONUMOZ until April 1994; foresees extension of Italian support in Mozambique until October 1994 if election timetable is adhered to.

+ WHO warns that number of people with diabetes is rising rapidly and could exceed 100 million by 2000; says World Diabetes Day, to be held on Sunday, is intended to increase awareness among Governments and general public.

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The Security Council today condemned the recent violations of the cease-fire in Nagorny Karabakh, which had resulted in a resumption of hostilities, particularly the occupation of the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz, attacks on civilians and bombardments of the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic. In unanimously adopting resolution 884 (1993), the Council called on the Armenian Government to use its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of Nagorny Karabakh with relevant resolutions and

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to ensure that the forces involved were not provided with the means to extend their military campaign further.

The Council demanded from the parties concerned an immediate end to hostilities and hostile acts, the unilateral withdrawal of occupying forces from Zangelan and Goradiz, and the withdrawal of occupying forces from other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan in accordance with the "Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993)" as amended by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Minsk Group meeting in Vienna from 2 to 8 November.

The Council urged the parties concerned to resume the cease-fire established as a result of direct contacts undertaken with the assistance of the Russian Government in support of the Minsk Group, and to continue to seek a negotiated settlement within the context of the Minsk process and the "Adjusted timetable" as amended in Vienna. It also again urged all States in the region to refrain from any hostile acts, interference or intervention which would lead to the widening of the conflict and undermine peace and security in the region.

The resolution asked the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and to assist refugees to return home in security and dignity.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told correspondents at Headquarters last night that the success of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) depended on three elements: the success of national reconciliation, finances, and the willingness of Member States to contribute additional troops or continue their present participation in the Operation.

The Secretary-General said that in his report to the Security Council, which is due by 18 November, he would be outlining the different available options. He pointed out that French and Belgian troops would leave UNOSOM II at the end of December and that the Americans would leave at the end of March. "We have to prepare ourselves a new strategy - to obtain additional troops, or to find a new approach at least on a military basis for the problem", he said. The problem was, he did not know whether the effort to promote political reconciliation among the different Somali parties would be successful before the end of the year, or before the end of March. There was doubt too about what the Organization's financial situation would be and whether it could sustain the expense of the troops in Somalia.

He stressed, however, the ongoing effort to promote political reconciliation, and noted the importance of the humanitarian conference on Somalia that would open in Addis Ababa on 29 November. He expressed the hope that the conference would provide an opportunity for further discussions "behind the scenes" with the different factions.

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The Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Canada, France, the United States and Venezuela -- the Friends of the Secretary-General on Haiti -- today reaffirmed their commitment to full implementation of the Governors Island Agreement and to the restoration of democracy and respect for human rights in Haiti. In a letter to the Secretary-General, they underlined their full support for the democratically-elected President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and for Prime Minister Robert Malval and his Government.

The letter expressed deep concern at the plight of the Haitian people, which was a direct result of the refusal by the military authorities to fulfill their public commitments. Only a return by the authorities to the Governors Island process would alleviate the situation. The letter also stressed the need for humanitarian measures to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable people in Haiti and called on States to do all they could to provide humanitarian assistance there.

The four Representatives also emphasized their unqualified support for Dante Caputo, Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) for Haiti, for his efforts to ensure implementation of the Governors Island Agreement and reiterated their commitment to measures adopted by the Security Council to address the crisis.

Mr. Caputo today briefed the Council on the situation in Haiti, and recalled the appeal for the humanitarian plan of action issued jointly by the United Nations and the OAS in March. He said that 13 staff members from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would return from Santo Domingo to Haiti this weekend to help the United Nations team already there to deliver humanitarian assistance.

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In response to an urgent request for funds to provide relief assistance to almost 700,000 refugees who have fled Burundi since a military coup last month, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) has allocated $5 million from its Central Emergency Revolving Fund to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

On 2 November, UNHCR asked the international community for $17 million to assist refugees from Burundi who had fled to Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire. In requesting funds from the DHA, UNHCR indicated that it had already drawn to the limit on its own emergency funds. It will use the emergency allocation from the Revolving Fund to procure emergency relief items while wating for contributions from donors.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh of Cameroon as his Special Representative for Rwanda, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Booh-Booh will assume his duties this week.

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Mr. Booh-Booh served in the Government of Cameroon as Minister for External Relations from 1998 to 1992. He was elected Vice-President of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in 1991 and President of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Disarmament in Central Africa.

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The Government of Italy has assured the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Mozambique, Aldo Ajello, that Italian troops will remain with the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) until April 1994, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Security Council last week renewed ONUMOZ's mandate for six months, subject to the proviso that it would review its status within 90 days.

Mr. Ajello had said that it would be "easy to convince the Italian Government to continue their support" for ONUMOZ until elections were held in Mozambique in October 1994 if the election timetable were adhered to, the spokesman noted. He added that Italy would be withdrawing three helicopters from the country, but that would not prevent ONUMOZ from carrying out its functions.

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The number of people with diabetes is increasing rapidly and could exceed 100 million worldwide by the end of the century, the World Health Organization (WHO) said today. That figure compares with an estimated 60 million three years ago.

Dr. Hilary King, the WHO medical officer responsible for diabetes, said: "There is no doubt that this disease is now a global health problem, with populations of developing countries, minority groups and disadvantaged communities facing the greatest risk." The rapid rise in the frequency of the disease in those groups seemed to be closely associated with lifestyle changes that accompanied industrialization, urbanization and socio-economic changes in the developing world, she noted.

In an effort to increase awareness of diabetes among Governments and the general public, WHO is co-sponsoring World Diabetes Day on Sunday, 14 November, together with the International Diabetes Federation.

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